

SENATE BILL 3100  
By Haynes

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, relative to transportation.

WHEREAS, the Eastern Box Turtle was named the official state reptile by Public Chapter 367 of the 99th General Assembly in 1995; and

WHEREAS, the turtle, striking in appearance, has a shell of black or brown with spots of yellow, orange, and red; and

WHEREAS, the Eastern Box Turtle is a peaceful creature, rarely growing more than six inches in length and seldom venturing far from the turtle's place of birth; and

WHEREAS, it is not uncommon for the Eastern Box Turtle to live thirty, forty, fifty, or even sixty years; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-202(c)(7), is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

(\_) *Terrapene carolina*;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) Owners or lessees of motor vehicles who are residents of the state of Tennessee, upon complying with state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and paying the regular fee applicable to the motor vehicle and the fee provided for in § 55-4-203, shall be issued an Eastern Box Turtle new specialty earmarked license plate for a motor vehicle authorized by § 55-4-210(c).

(b) The new specialty earmarked license plates provided for in this section shall contain a likeness of the Eastern Box Turtle, shall include the salamander's scientific

name "*Terrapene carolina*" and shall be designed in consultation with Mr. Jim Allen Beasley, a friend of the Eastern Box Turtle.

(c) The funds produced from the sale of such new specialty earmarked license plates shall be deposited in the wildlife resources fund established pursuant to § 70-1-401, to be used exclusively for management, protection, propagation, and conservation of fish and wildlife species, including the Eastern Box Turtle, and the protection and enhancement of such species' habitats.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004, the public welfare requiring it